

Thomas Darnall House
CH-730
Dubois vic.
Private

1859

The Thomas Darnall House, although extensively altered, is a rare example of Gothic-inspired architecture in Charles County. Standing on a high ridge on the east side of Dubois Road, the dwelling is 2 1/2 stories in height, and three bays on the eave elevations with an overall single-pile, side-passage plan. The most striking original features to survive include a three tier exterior end brick chimney on the north wall and a carved staircase with slender turned posts. The west elevation reveals the original steeply pitched paired gables. Standing on a five acre parcel, the house is now oriented toward Dubois Road to the west. However, historically, the dwelling faced the old road which ran to the east of the dwelling before making a 90 degree turn westward.

In 1859 Jane E. Johns sold to Thomas H. Darnall 327 acres including 300 acres known as Mount Pleasant and 27 acres formed from parts of Nevitt's Desert, Indian Cabin and Brotherhood. Thomas Darnall and his wife Harriet retained ownership until 1893, when their heirs sold the property to Winifred Smoot. In 1902, 302 of the original 327 acres "recently referred to as Darnall Farm or Darnall Place" was deeded to William W. Dyson. By 1964 the original road which ran to the east had been realigned, carving approximately 40 acres from the original parcel. In that year, Stella Larson deeded to Joseph D. and Betty L. Sams "that triangular portion of the property acquired from Carpenter east of Dubois-Trinity Church Road" containing 48 acres and the old Darnall dwelling.

Inventory No. CH-730

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Thomas Darnall House
other	J.D. Sams House

2. Location

street and number	9205 Dubois Road	<u> </u>	not for publication
city, town	Dubois	<u>X</u>	vicinity
county	Charles		

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Steven and Nicole Belkov				
street and number	9205 Dubois Road			telephone	Unknown
city, town	Charlotte Hall	state	MD	zip code	20622-3632

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	66 p.	59
city, town	LaPlata	liber	1358	folio 72

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count		
						Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/>	public	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	recreation/culture	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	religion	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	site			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	social	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	object			<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation	<u>1</u> objects
				<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary	<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress	<u>2</u> Total
				<input type="checkbox"/>	government	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	other:	
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory		
						0		

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-730

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas Darnall House, although extensively altered, is a rare example of Gothic-inspired architecture in Charles County. Standing on a high ridge on the east side of Dubois Road, the dwelling is 2 1/2 stories in height, and three bays on the eave elevations with an overall single-pile, side-passage plan. The most striking original features to survive include a three tier exterior end brick chimney on the north wall and a carved staircase with slender turned posts. The west elevation reveals the original steeply pitched paired gables. Standing on a five acre parcel, the house is now oriented toward Dubois Road to the west. However, historically, the dwelling faced the old road which ran to the east of the dwelling before making a 90 degree turn westward. One story additions extend from all elevations and the roofline has been drastically altered on the east elevation. All original windows have been replaced with the exception of two 6/6 wood sash windows protected under the west elevation first floor shed addition. A trailer and shed also stand on the property.

The floorplan has been drastically altered due to the changing house orientation, the erection of shed additions on all elevations and the non-traditional use of the original rooms within the structure. The first floor parlor has been converted into a bedroom with an attached bathroom to the east in the shed addition. The second story bedroom has been divided in two by the construction of a partition wall.

The Thomas Darnall House, referred to as the J.D. Sams House by J. Richard Rivoire architectural historian, has been confused with the Trinity Lake House (CH-294) also referred to as Mount Pleasant, which stood nearby on the west bank of Trinity Lake 1/2 mile east of the junction with Dubois Road. This structure was in ruins when documented in 1978.

The Thomas Darnall House is said to have had an earlier or original kitchen wing that was demolished and rebuilt as the current wing on the south gable wall.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-730

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1859	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1859		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Thomas Darnall House is a rare but unfortunately drastically altered example of Gothic-inspired architecture in Charles County. In 1859 Jane E. Johns sold to Thomas H. Darnall 327 acres including 300 acres known as Mount Pleasant and 27 acres formed from parts of Nevitt's Desert, Indian Cabin and Brotherhood. Thomas Darnall and his wife Harriet retained ownership until 1893, when their heirs sold the property to Winifred Smoot. In 1902, 302 of the original 327 acres "recently referred to as Darnall Farm or Darnall Place" was deeded to William W. Dyson. By 1964 the original road which ran to the east had been realigned, carving approximately 40 acres from the original parcel. In that year, Stella Larson deeded to Joseph D. and Betty L. Sams "that triangular portion of the property acquired from Carpenter east of Dubois-Trinity Church Road" containing 48 acres and the old Darnall dwelling.

The Gothic Revival style emerged nationally between 1840-1880 as an appropriate architectural style for rural cottages and retreats. One of the most characteristic features found on this particular example include the steeply pitched roof with decorative cross gables. Although relatively abundant in the northern states, they are less common in the South, where Greek Revival dominated building traditions throughout the 1840's and 50's, and the Civil War virtually halted new construction altogether.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-730

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5

Acreage of historical setting 327

Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Thomas Darnall House is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 66, Parcel 59.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Dept.

date 11/5/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state Md zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-730

Section 8 Page 1

Thomas Darnall House
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of Title:

- 1989 Joseph D. and Betty L. Sams to Steven Belkov
5.33 acres \$95,000
1358/72
- 1964 Stella C. Larson to Joseph D. and Betty L. Sams "That triangular portion of the property acquired from Howard Carpenter east of Dubois Trinity Church Road, bounded on the west by said road bounded by Amnaank and Miller land...48 acres.
173/129
- 1953 Stella C. Larson to Howard S. Carpenter
Nevitt's Desert, Indian Cabin, Brotherhood, Mt. Pleasant,
Same as conveyed to James F. Matthews, trustee to Winifred Smoot excepting a subdivision of 25 acres conveyed to Richard Gough in 1893, same land sold in 1905 from Smoot trustees to William H. Dyson, Further same land obtained by Carpenter from William W. Lyon, Jr. et al in 1952
302 acres.
106/398
- 1905 Smoot trustees to William W. Dyson. Nevitt's Desert, Indian Cabin, Brotherhood.& Mt. Pleasant. 302 acres...Recently called and known as Darnall Farm or Darnall Place (See Equity 1071)
FDM 16/65
- 1893 James Matthews, trustee for Darnall heirs to Winifred Smoot. Nevitt's Desert, Indian Cabin, Brotherhood.& Mt. Pleasant. 327 acres
JST 5/425
- 1887 Last will and testament of Harriet A. Darnall to heirs Charles N. Darnall, Thomas A. Darnall, Joseph F. Darnall, Albert S. Darnall, Caroline Jones and Mary M. McWilliams. Check equity
18/425
- 1869 Thomas Darnall to Charles H. Sheirbourne for his wife Harriet A. Darnall
GAH 2/228
- 1859 Jane E. Johns to Thomas H. Darnall. Nevitt's Desert [also Desire], Indian Cabin, Brotherhood 27 acres; Mount Pleasant 300 acres. Part of 487 acre parcel owned by Benjamin Johns and Jane Johns.
JHC 1/145

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-730

Section 9 Page 1

Thomas Darnall House

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 8/2001

North arrow:



Name: THOMAS DARNALL HOUSE

Address: 9205 DUBOIS ROAD

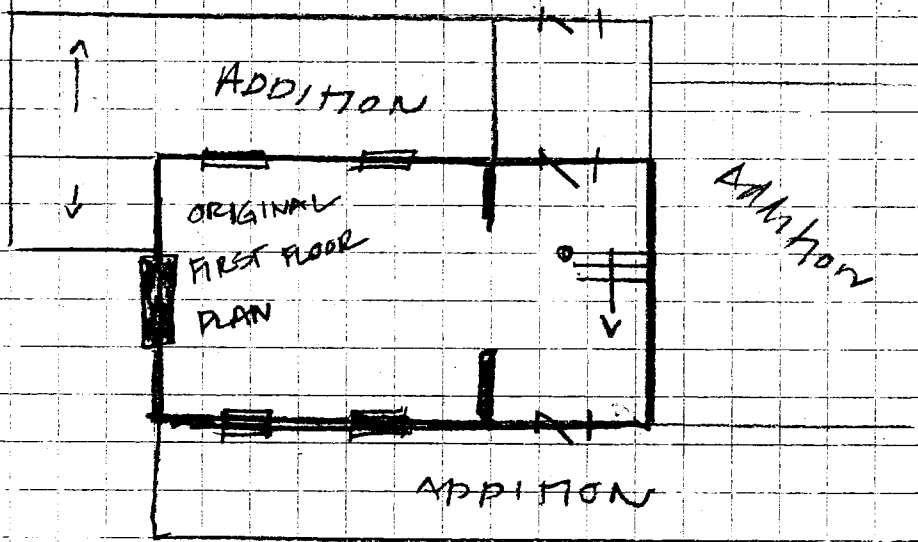
CH - 730

Charles County, Maryland

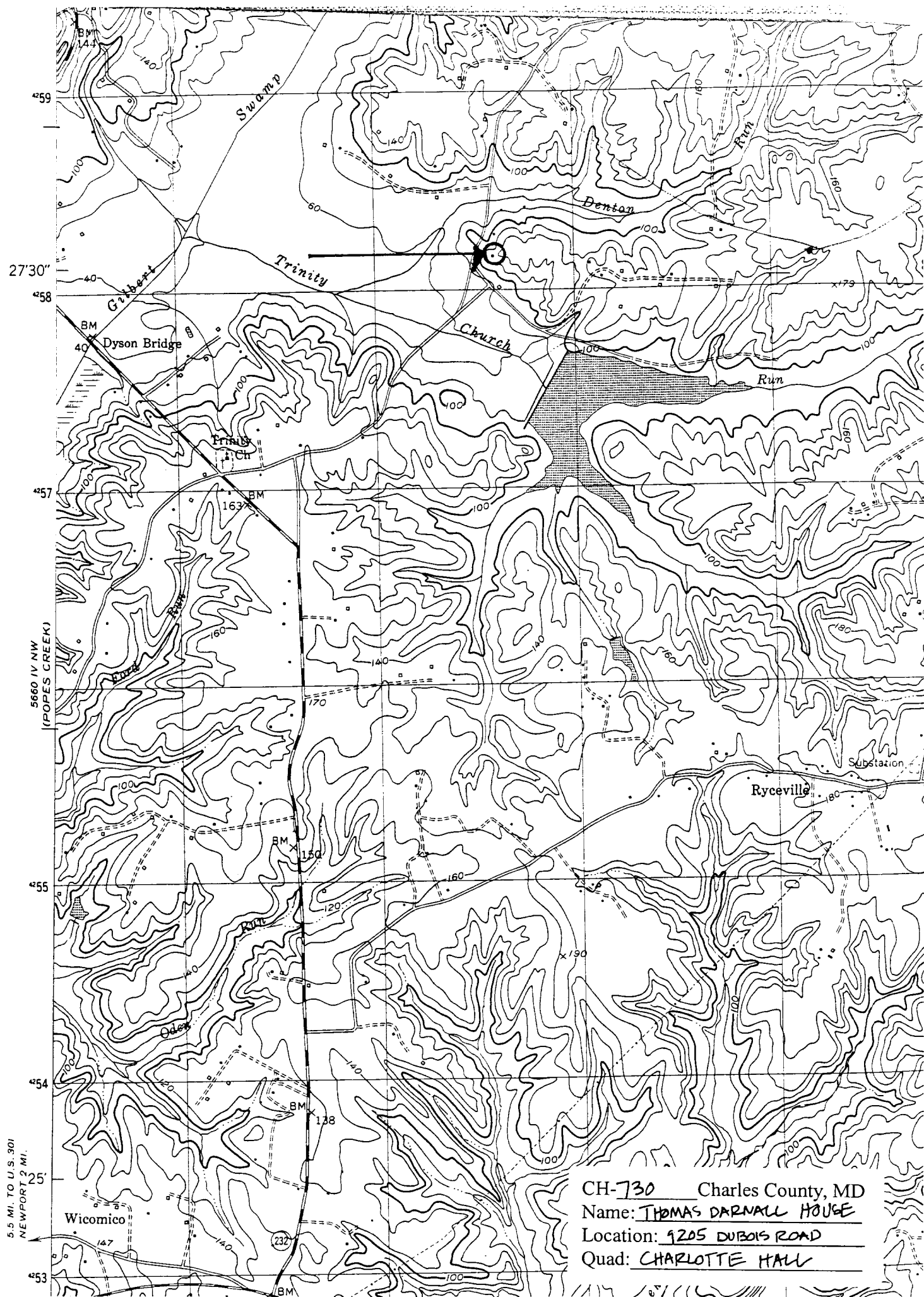
DUBOIS

☒ Vicinity

↑ OLD DUBOIS ROAD, PRE 1964 ↓



DUBOIS ROAD, POST 1964



CH-730 Charles County, MD
Name: THOMAS DARNALL HOUSE
Location: 9205 DUBOIS ROAD
Quad: CHARLOTTE HALL



CH-730
THOMAS DARNALL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
WEST ELEVATION

1 of 4



CH-730

THOMAS DARNALL HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY

8/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

2 OF 4



CH-730

THOMAS DARNALL HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

8/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

STAIR, 1st FLOOR, LOOKING E

30F4



CH-730

THOMAS DARNALL HOUSE

CHARLES W, MD

8/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

STAIR, 2nd Floor, Looking N

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